

MONGOLIAN STATE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

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BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE ALUMNI

Inspire. Empower. Connect.

Please join the Global State Alumni Community at www.alumni.state.gov where you can meet and stay in touch with fellow alumni from all over the world; hear about alumni news and activities; learn about job and grant opportunities; access over 1000 academic and prominent journals and periodicals; and share your stories and participate in global discussions. The State Alumni website is an exclusive community network only for the U.S.G alumni to ensure that your exchange experience does not stop when you return home, but continues to result in productive professional, societal, cultural, and community engagements.

Mongolian Association of State Alumni (MASA) was established in September 2007 as a community of all past and current Mongolian participants of U.S. Government sponsored exchange programs. Since 1989 more than 700 Mongolians have participated in U.S. Government sponsored programs and you are a welcome member of this family.

MASA Mission is to contribute to the bilateral relationships of Mongolia and the U.S. and promote the efforts of Mongolian U.S. Government alumni for societal and community development.



WE TWEET! CLICK HERE TO FOLLOW!

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D.JARGALSAIKHAN

Current president of the Mongolian Association of State Alumni (MASA), Economist, Defacto program host, USAID Masters' Program alumnus, 2002.



ALUMNI JOIN FORCES

with Consul to Amplify Educational Outreach



Public Affairs staff conducting a presentation at IFE, Ulaanbaatar.



Consul Section staff discussing visas at Ider College, Ulaanbaatar.

In the past three months the Public Affairs Section and the alumni of the SUSI program joined the Embassy Consular Officers to conduct educational outreach to over 350 students at three universities in Ulaanbaatar, namely the Institute of Finance and Economy (IFE), Ider College, and Mongolian University of Science and Technology.

During these outreach visits, the Public Affairs staff talked about the exchange and scholarship programs for students and university faculty, followed by alumni presentations about their experience of participating in the SUSI program and what they have learned and seen.

The consular officers give talks on U.S. visas in general with emphasis on student visas, addressing the many misconceptions and “myths” regarding visas and visa regulations.

The real-life alumni stories and examples of participating in USG programs, often illustrated by beautiful photos, generate much enthusiasm and interest among students for not only the exchange programs, but also for learning English.

Given the ever growing interest among university students and faculty in educational and other opportunities in America, these visits are always in high demand. It gives the students a rare opportunity to get rounded information on scholarships, visas and real life experience all at once and to hold a real-time conversation with embassy officers and ask them questions.

For all of these outreach visits, we collaborated with the Peace Corps Volunteers based at universities in Ulaanbaatar. The PCVs and their host institutions were happy to receive embassy visits and in turn the PCVs were excellent resources for us to conduct our educational outreach.

In a way, this is an example of a small but effective way to combine our resources for a mutually beneficial effort. The alumni and Public Affairs and Consular Offices plan to continue our outreach throughout May and reach out to an additional 350-400 students and faculty.

We would like to thank our SUSI alumni Amarjargal, Tungalag, and Uyemaa for your input for these outreaches. □

ALUMNI MEET MR. SANCHEZ,

The Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade



From left: President of MASA Mr. Jargalsaikhan, Under Secretary of Commerce Mr. Sanchez and U.S. Ambassador Piper Campbell

Under Secretary Mr. Sanchez, U.S. Ambassador Campbell, PAO Hoffmann and MASA members at the reception.

On April 5, 2013, U.S. Ambassador Piper Campbell hosted an alumni reception at her residence on the occasion of Mr. Francisco J. Sanchez's visit to Mongolia. Mr. Sanchez is the Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade at the U.S. Department of Commerce and paid an official visit to Mongolia April 4-6, 2013.

Mr. Sanchez had many meetings and visits with government officials and Mongolian business community leaders and concluded his program in Mongolia with a dinner reception with the leaders and members of MASA (Mongolian Association of State Alumni).

Around two dozen members of MASA attended the reception and enjoyed an opportunity to share their

experiences of studying and living in the U.S. with Under Secretary Sanchez. They also had an opportunity to exchange views on a variety of topics such as the current U.S. and Mongolia trade and business relationship.

During the reception Ambassador Campbell stated that alumni are a valuable asset for the Embassy's public diplomacy efforts because they play a crucial role in the people-to-people relationship between Mongolia and the U.S. The embassy appreciates all that our alumni do to expand and strengthen this relationship in their respective fields.

Undersecretary Sanchez appreciated the opportunity to meet such a diverse and impressive group of alumni representing various sectors and fields of Mongolia. He made a toast to the alumni association and its leaders for their effort and success for driving such talented group of people together and motivating them to contribute to the growth and development of the alumni community.

President of MASA, Mr. Jargalsaikhan, thanked the Ambassador and the Undersecretary for allowing the alumni an opportunity to meet and socialize with them. He noted the alumni association is growing and will continue to work to motivate young people and serve the community. □



MASA President Jargalsaikhan and Under Secretary Sanchez.

ALUMNI NEWS

TEN STEPS TO SUCCESS

A Book by Alumna

Ms. Gandolgor Purevjav mentioned in her article in our previous newsletter that she was inspired to write a book during her Humphrey Fellowship Program. We followed up with her on her book. Gandolgor released her book “Ten Steps to Success,” which already is topping best sellers lists at major book stores: #3 in Internom’s 10 bestseller books and #4 in Az Hur’s best seller books list, this book is suited for all types of audience and is for everyone who wants to be successful. Drawing upon her Humphrey and other experience, Gandolgor wants this book to be an inspiration to people to understand about success and reach their full potential. Ten Steps to Success is available at all major book stores in Ulaanbaatar. □

“Энэхүү ном таныг амжилтын гараагаа эхэлж байгаа үед чиглүүлэн залж, асуудал тулгаран мухардсан үед гарц болж, амжилтын оргил оод мацах үед эрч хүч өгч чадна.”

—Томас Хамп
Адвикоуч, Мид-Мичиган Компанийн Ерөнхийлөгч

АМЖИЛТЫН АРВАН АЛХАМ



HUBERT H. HUMPHREY FELLOW

Conducts Career Counseling Trainings

Ms. Gandolgor Purevjav, Humphrey Fellow 2011-2012 and Founder of “Great Success Bell” NGO, organized a series of trainings for high school social workers to be Career Counselor with the funding of U.S. Embassy.

The objective of the project was to train social workers to give career advice to high school students. Over 120 social workers from 180 secondary schools, which are 80 percent of all the secondary school social workers in the Ulaanbaatar



Ms. Gandolgor giving a lecture titled “Choosing the right profession is key to success” at Ulaanbaatar city public library.



The lecture for high school students at school #65, Songinokhairkhan district, Ulaanbaatar.

city, took part in the training. Gandolgor also gave career choice lectures at UB city library and secondary schools #1, 65, 24 which reached over 700 students in total.

Gandolgor said she noticed that career advice and mentoring are virtually non-existent concepts at our secondary schools and even at homes. There are social workers at secondary schools, but they do not counsel students on choosing career and lack the basic knowledge and resources to provide career advice.

At home, parents usually don't know how to effectively help their children to choose the "right" career and in many cases, they either force their own choices onto their children or don't get involved at all.

"I've been wanting to do something on this for a while and remembering what we've been told at our Humphrey pre-departure meeting, I approached our alumni coordinator with my project idea and after a couple of months the project became reality," Gandolgor says.

The project was a great success and Gandolgor received many requests from schools out of Ulaanbaatar to conduct trainings at their schools and for their parent groups. "Even though I knew it was a subject lacking information and guidance, I was surprised by how much interest there was both among students and parents to learn about choosing a career and options." Gandolgor hopes to continue her project and wants to develop training for parents on career advising and options next. She also is seeking ways to expand it to rural students and schools. □



Ms. Gandolgor is with the participants of training social workers to be career counselors

ALUMNA JOINS AMBASSADOR

to Discuss Women in Public Service with Young Women

In honor of women history month and International Women's Day, On March 6, 2013, Ms. Oyun Sanjaa, (an Eisenhower alumna and the Minister of Environment and Green Development) joined U.S. Ambassador Piper Anne Wind Campbell to share their experiences of working in the Public service.

Over 60 alumni of Access, SUSI and UGRAD programs along with several young women from various NGOs attended the discussion and shared their views on women's rights and their role in government and politics with the Minister and the Ambassador.

The speakers presented advice on successful career in public service and answered questions ranging from the role of governments in promoting women's rights to most memorable International Women's Day experience. □



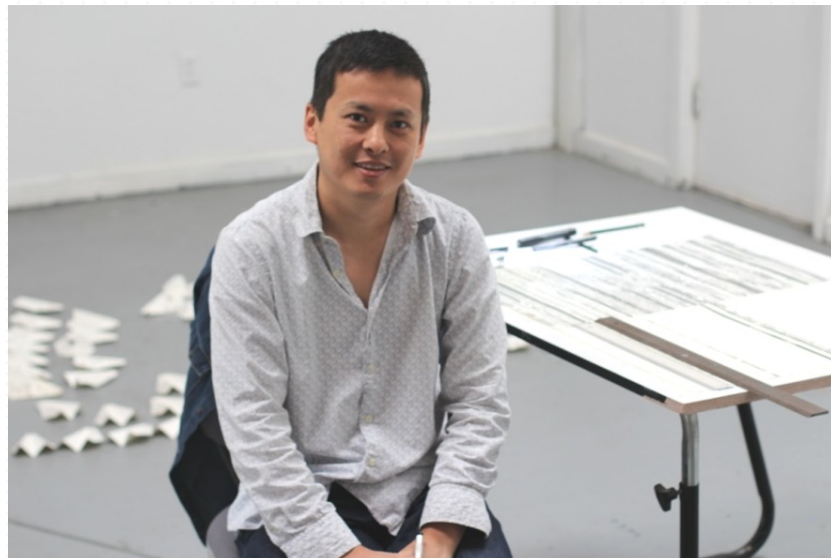
U.S. Ambassador Campbell and audience listen as Environment Minister Oyun shares her advice about working in public service.

FULBRIGHTER RECEIVES

The Helen L. Bing Fellowship

Tuguldur Yondonjamts, a 2012-2014 Fulbright fellow from Mongolia, currently studying art at Columbia University, has been named as the recipient of the Helen L Bing Fellowship. This is the largest artist residency program in the West and considered among the best in the U.S.

[The Helen L. Bing Fellowship](#) provides artists from the U.S. and all over the world art residency, helping them to get away from the distractions of the world and concentrate on their art. Established in 1979 by Stanford University Professor Emeritus Dr. Carl Djerassi, this residency program inspired over 2000 artists of various nationalities with the beautiful views of the Pacific Ocean, deep redwood forests and quiet solitude.



Fulbright fellow Tuguldur, in his studio.

"The residency is located in Santa Cruz Mountains west of Stanford in California. I spent one month in the beginning of June 2012. I had a big studio with a fireplace and a living room upstairs. The "barn", the building where we lived, was built on the hill and we had an amazing view of the Pacific Ocean. The residency is situated in a preservation area with open hills and a deep redwood forest which provides artists with space, where they can work without any disruption from daily life. I worked on my drawing *The secret mountain of falcons* during my residency, which I started in New York City.

The program invites seven groups of artists annually, and in my group were three writers, a composer, a choreographer, a media artist, and couple of visual artists. It was very exciting to get inspiration from the talks and works of diverse artists.



Tuguldur, dining with the other Djerassi Resident Artists Program participants.

Another fascinating feature of residency was field trips. We went to the sculpture park in the Redwood forest, at San Gregorio beach and often different places. Animals in that area do not seem to avoid humans. We saw bobcats, deer, and rattlesnakes and also enjoyed listening to the howling coyotes." □

STUDYING LAW IN THE U.S.

A Fulbright Alumna Shares Her Experience

On April 5, 2013, Ms. Naranbulag, a 2011-2012 Fulbright alumna, shared her experience of studying at the John Martial's Law School in Chicago with over 70 Mongolian law students and young professionals at the American Culture and Information Center. Naranbulag received her LLM degree in International Business and Trade Law from the Chicago John Martial's Law School on Fulbright scholarship.

Naranbulag talked about the academic requirements and expectations for studying at a law school, she also compared the different teaching styles of America and Mongolia, as well as the general campus life and available resources.

She introduced John Martial's school and handed out promotional materials sent by the school to Mongolian students. Her presentation was followed by a lively Q&A session about the advantages and relevance of studying law in the U.S., law school requirements as well as tips for a successful application and admission tests.

Naranbulag's talk was the first of our monthly Fulbright Speaker series which organizes area-specific talks for studying in the U.S. In collaboration with our Fulbright alumni, we are organizing talks on pursuing a certain area of study for students and professionals from a specific profession/field



Over 60 law school students and professionals attended this lecture.

and or introducing individual universities where our Fulbrighters studied.

Our May Fulbright Speaker will be Dr. Erdenekhuu who will talk about studying Public Health in the U.S. □

ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT INNOVATION FUND

Get Ready for the 2013 AEIF!

Our alumni are aware that each year the State Department offers the global State Alumni community members a grant opportunity of USD 25,000 to make their collaborative ideas into reality through a project competition.

This project competition gives alumni of different programs and countries an opportunity to work together to implement their innovative ideas or address a social or other issues through a project. The third annual Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund (AEIF) launches on April 24.

This year's competition invites alumni teams to propose projects that address global issues under project categories including Empowering Women, Outreach to Underserved Communities, Entrepreneurship and Youth Employment, Expanded Access to Education, Environmental Protection, Government Transparency, Freedom of Expression, Conflict Resolution, Citizen Security, and Promoting Civil Society.

Competition Overview and Participant Requirements:

The State Department created AEIF to support alumni initiatives that promote shared values and innovative

solutions to global challenges. As in years past, the 2013 AEIF competition will be hosted on the International Exchange Alumni website.

Participants will be required to compete in teams of at least ten alumni of U.S. government-sponsored exchange programs. All ten of these members must be verified members of the International Exchange Alumni website in order to participate. Winning teams will be awarded up to \$25,000 in support of their projects. Read a complete description of the 2013 AEIF competition on the [2013 AEIF pages on International Exchange Alumni](#).

As all alumni team members must be verified members of International Exchange Alumni in order to participate in AEIF, we encourage you to take the next three weeks to register on the International Exchange Alumni (formerly state.alumni.gov) site before the competition begins on April 24. If you have any questions about AEIF, please get in touch with the alumni coordinator or visit the international exchange alumni website [□](#)

THE NEW INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE ALUMNI WEBSITE

The Place Where Exchange Alumni Connect Just Got Better!

State Alumni is now International Exchange Alumni! It's faster, more modern and easier to access. We're still at the same web address: alumni.state.gov.

International Exchange Alumni features exciting resources to help you network and collaborate with your peers. Now, you can:

- Create Project pages and share your projects.
- Connect with alumni through other social media.
- Read stories on the new publicly-viewable pages.

You will continue to have exclusive access to your favorite resources:

- Post an alumni update.
- Share an event that you are organizing.
- Explore the grants database and the online library.
- Access job and volunteer opportunities.

Visit alumni.state.gov today to check out the new International Exchange Alumni Website! [□](#)

INTERVIEW WITH A FULBRIGHTER

Mandukhai Buyandelger

In this issue of the newsletter, we are very pleased to introduce one of our very first Fulbrighters Ms. Mandukhai Buyandelger. She shares her Fulbright experience, about working and studying at Harvard and MIT.

Uyanga (U): Please share with us about your Fulbright experience and how it affected your life:

Mandukhai (M): Dr. Ann Welden, who was a PAO at the US Embassy in 1994, met me during a small scholarly meeting at NUM. She suggested that I should apply for a Ph.D. in Anthropology in the U.S. That was the first time I heard about Fulbright program. I took TOEFL (a couple of times), the GRE, filled in application forms, wrote an essay, and submitted some documents. I received the Fulbright scholarship in 1995 and studied Social Anthropology at Harvard University.

U: From your overall Fulbright experience, what was the hardest and what was the most rewarding part?

M: Hardest -- being in a culturally different environment and being away from my family and friends. Getting used to a new academic culture and learn to endure prolonged stress and sleep deprivation.

Rewarding -- making friends with some of the brightest people, overcoming challenges, and having a "total" Harvard experience from first seminars to graduation, from first research papers to completing my dissertation, and from being a student to becoming a faculty. Also, the most important thing is being valued for what I am capable of and being trusted on the basis of my work, not based on my family, status, connections, looks, money, etc. It is great to receive grants, job offers, or other benefits based on my ideas and achievement, as opposed to other things. That is called meritocracy.

U: What impact did the Fulbright program have on your life both as a professional and an individual?



Mandukhai Buyandelger received the Fulbright scholarship in 1995 and is currently working as an Associate Professor of Anthropology at MIT. She received her B.A. and M.A. in Literature and Linguistics from Mongolian National University and her M.A. and Ph.D. in Anthropology from Harvard University (2004). Prior to joining Anthropology at MIT she was a Junior Fellow at the Harvard Society of Fellows and taught at the Harvard Anthropology Department. She is the author of *Tragic Spirits: Shamanism, Memory, and Gender in Contemporary Mongolia* (forthcoming University of Chicago Press, Summer-Fall 2013), which tells a story of the collapse of the socialist state and the responses of marginalized rural nomads to the devastating changes through the revival of their previously suppressed shamanic practices.

M: Completely transformative. I found my place in the world -- the academic lifestyle, community, and my job. It fits my overall goals and personality very well and it seems that I fit the academic lifestyle, culture, and environment that require self-motivation, relative independence, flexibility, but also a very hard work and a necessity to push oneself to a limit.

U: Please share with us your thoughts on America. As a Mongolian, what would you say are the biggest difference and similarity between Mongolia and the U.S.?

M: Too many differences in many spheres. Mongolia could not be more different than the US in terms of its values, cultural practices, tastes, and patterns in their behavior and thinking than Mongolians. It is hard to give specific examples also because U.S. is so huge and every part has its own culture and peculiarities. If I lived in rural Montana or Virginia, my thoughts on two countries would be completely different. I live in New England, Boston Massachusetts. It is the land of the most liberal thinking in this country, a home for academic and bookish geeks, and puritans who have very distinct view about what life should be about. New Englanders value hard work, careful spending, and modest looks. That contrasts to flamboyant, materialistic, and lavish lifestyle that is represented by Hollywood. So to some extent Boston is its own little cultural oasis.

U: What would you say is the "best of America" - If you were asked to name one good thing about America that you want to have in Mongolia, what would that be?

M: Meritocracy. We need to abolish nepotism, corruption, and some other things that are deemed as traditions that maintain pecking order, lock in power, and prevent the talents and new ideas to materialize. We need to adopt meritocracy. Additionally, we need to value trust and learn to respect others' private property.

U: What was your first impression of America and American people? And has this impression changed now that you've lived there for quite a while?

M: It has been a very long time since I first came to this country. The country has changed and so did I. To be honest, I cannot recall my very first impression. I think there were too many. One thing I remember distinctly, though, is the value of old and used things, furniture, buildings, and family heirlooms. This was back in 1995, when Mongolia was trying to get rid of its socialist past and everyone seemed to destroy their belongings and memories of socialism. Not everything new is good or better. We need to learn to value what we have instead of trying to hoard stuff.

Overall, Americans are wonderful people. Helpful, kind, and friendly. They are very different from Mongolians. (And the differences are usually interpreted in negative terms.) Of course, like everywhere else, there are people who seem to be obnoxious or just not to our taste. This is America. People tolerate and accept differences, individuality, and even strangeness. And that is what makes this country great. There is no notion of what an average American supposed to be like. There is no pressure to be or act that "normal." And

discussions of what is normal or abnormal in a normative and rigid sense remain philosophical discussions, without becoming a politics of everyday life. These discussions do not affect people's behaviors and desires.

U: Did you encounter any cultural shock? And if so, what were they?

M: Yes, perhaps too many to mention. The biggest one being the work ethic. People work so hard here.

U: Please share with us your thoughts on success. How would you define it?

M: A way of making a living by doing what one loves. It is about creating the right lifestyle that benefits the person and others who surround that person. Fulbright provided me a chunk of time and resources, free from external pressures and challenges, so that I could devote full time and energy to gaining necessary skills to succeed in my field, to build networks, and find a way of life that is helpful to me to live a fulfilling and happy life.

U: If you were to name your life's successes, what things would you name and why?

M: Getting my book published, having my dream job, having wonderful supportive colleagues, and being able to think and write for a living.

U: It is the wish of many young Mongolians to study at a school like Harvard, but many of them believe that only the smartest or the richest can go there. What would you say to that?

M: They need to look at the admissions process and read up the rules and processes. Harvard has a 'blind' admission. It does not accept on the basis of money. It accepts students on the basis of their abilities and provides scholarships to 50% of their students. In general, the basic principles of its operation as an academic institution and as a school that I found helpful and which I appreciate to this day are:

- Absence of explicit hierarchy between students and professors;
- Students are not judged on the basis of their looks, ethnicity, and other superficial characteristics;
- No assumptions about anyone, only evaluation of one's work. If there is an assumption about someone, that does not interfere with grades.
- No judgment or hierarchy about one's intelligence.

Students from Mongolia and Italy are on a same level, for better or worse. No double standards.

-- Teachers always assumed the best about the student and tried to help.

U: Currently you teach at MIT, one of the world's leading universities. It is a source of pride to us to have a fellow Mongolian Fulbrighter working as a professor at MIT. What is it like to teach at a university like MIT?

M: Teaching at MIT is great because the students are incredibly bright, motivated, and smart. But they are also modest, extremely hard working, and do not take privilege for granted.

U: What would you say is the key quality or qualification to study or work at universities like Harvard and MIT?

M: I do not know. For me it is all about doing what one loves. After all, it would be impossible to do something thoroughly and for 16 hour days if one does not like what he or she is doing. Plus, academia pays much less than business, law, government, and other spheres. So, there is little monetary incentive to be in an academic institution. It is all about the love of one's research, high prestige, and a special kind of lifestyle that is different from the ones in other professions.

EXCHANGE REFLECTIONS

NOMINTUYA BAASANKHUU *Fulbrighter Story*

I am a former contortionist turned into an arts administrator. As a young professional, I am always eager to grow professionally and personally through opportunities and challenges that rise. With a privilege of receiving Foreign Fulbright Award in 2010, my path to pursue MA in Arts Administration at Columbia University in the City of New York has begun. The path was challenging and yet the most rewarding life time experience I ever had.

Moving to one of the biggest metropolitan cities in the world was already a challenge to begin with but life in New

U: What are your future goals?

M: To do more research and publish about Mongolia, so that the world understands and appreciates its people, culture, and resources that are about to be extracted.

U: As a fellow Mongolian and a Fulbrighter, how do you think our alumni and other young people can "make a difference" in our society and communities?

M: Depends on the kind of difference one wants to make and its consequences. I think there have been a lot of "making a difference" things, but not everything has a happy ending for all. Perhaps, we all need to be aware of what our actions might bring to different people. Today, the world is fragmented and heterogeneous. What is good for one group of people might have negative repercussions for others. So we need to think well before "making a difference." For me, success is not just a "thing" to achieve, or a fleeting moment of joy or pride. Success is achieving a lifestyle that allows one to do what one enjoys and what one is good at. Success is not an object or a moment, but a sustained and hopefully, a life-long process. Success is only valuable if one can share it with others and can help others □



Nomintuya Baasankhuu

Arts Program Director, Arts Council of Mongolia

Foreign Fulbright Award Recipient 2010-2012

P.E.O Int'l Peace Scholarship for Women Recipient 2010-2012

Leman Fellowship Award Recipient 2011

York City offered the most diverse experience I could imagine. At Columbia University, I studied foundation of business at the Business school, I studied laws associated

with the arts at the Law school and I studied non-profit management at Teachers College. I was part of network that included bright young people from business, law, non-profit, arts and entertainment industry and being a Fulbright extended my network beyond Columbia and the U.S.

When you are part of such a diverse network, you are able to inspire and be inspired by your fellows and your classmates. During the Fulbright Enrichment Seminar in Washington D.C held in March 2011, I met fellow Fulbright Nis Green, a Danish film maker student at University of Wisconsin-Madison. By introducing Mongolian and Danish film industries to each other, we discovered many possibilities to work together. As a result, Nis decided to complete his master thesis on Mongolian film industry development since 1990 and paid a visit to Mongolia in January of 2012. We shared information since my thesis focused on the triplicate transitions of the economic, social and political sectors that influenced development of arts and culture sector in Mongolia since Democratic Revolution. We completed our master thesis in May of 2012 as we received our degree. The collaboration was not only about being inspired but also inspiring others.

As such, I had the chance to work as the coordinator of the UN Day Concert 2011 at UN General Assembly Hall. I managed all the production and programming aspect of the concert by working with both U.S and Mongolian entities involved in the concert; UN Headquarter, a private producing company—Opus 3 Artist, Ministry of Education, Culture and Science of Mongolia, Permanent Mission of Mongolia to UN, the National Horse-head Fiddle Ensemble and the National Song and Dance Ensemble. The concert featured the best of Mongolian traditional and modern performing arts and attracted more than 1800 people including UN ambassadors, staff and residents. I was recognized by both Mr. Batbold



Ms. Nomintuya at the UN Day Concert, 2011, UN General Assembly Hall, NY. Sukhbaatar, the Prime Minister at that time and UN Headquarter as the Coordinator.

With all the diverse experience I gained and the network I built, I returned home with full of inspiration and excitement to share back to the community. Through my Columbia network, I invited Mrs. Julia Sloan, a professor at Columbia Business School and the author of Learning to Think Strategically in March 2013 to introduce a new strategic thinking concept to Mongolia. Mrs. Sloan was one of the key lecturers of the Mongolian Economic Forum 2013.

Another Columbia Law School faculty and the Director of Copyright Advisory Office of Columbia University Mr. Kenneth Crews will pay a week visit to Mongolia on my invitation in April, 2013. Mr. Crews will be the key speaker at the Empowering Creative Cluster of Mongolia Intellectual Property Seminar on April 23 and 24 organized by Arts Council of Mongolia and Intellectual Property Office and will be part of the World Intellectual Property Day celebration on April 26. In the summer, I am most excited to bring world renowned New York City Ballet (NYCB) principals and soloist to Mongolia under the trademark of Stars of American Ballet at the Opera and Ballet Theater on June 13 and 14. My Columbia classmate Andrew Robertson, a former dancer and a current administrator of NYCB made it possible for me to invite the world class company.

All the challenging yet rewarding experience I had through my Fulbright, sharpened my skills and knowledge, expanded my network internationally and opened many doors to different opportunities. I want to thank State Department, Columbia University, and U.S Embassy in Ulaanbaatar for giving me chance to grow professionally and personally as a professional and be inspired the legacy of Fulbright. □



From left Batchuluun Ts., Jantsannorov N., Nomintuya B., Batbold S., Otgonbayar Y. and Naranzun B, at the UN Day Concert, 2011, NY.

ERDENEKHUU NANSALMAA

Fulbrighter Story

Working for more than 15 years in the health care system, I have come to know how management of the health care system affects the quality of health services, including patient diagnosis and treatment. However, the Mongolian health care system faces many problems rooted in sluggish policy from administration and the low job satisfaction of medical professionals. The quality of health services deteriorates because of poor management and low levels of professional competency of health policy-makers and administrators. The low-quality of services in health care result in increased complications and death rates, and poor outcome of preventive measures.

With my desire to contribute to my country in resolving the above-mentioned health system's issues, I applied for the Fulbright Student Fellowship Program for the Master's degree in Health Policy and Management. The Fulbright program provided an opportunity for me to learn about health policy development and implementation through the application of theoretical knowledge to real life and the analysis of current health policy directions.

After my graduation, I had a great opportunity to apply my education to real world experience as part of my Optional Practical Training. While working at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), I gained so much more knowledge, skills, confidence and understanding about the political and economic context of health policy



Erdenekhuu Nansalma MD, MPH, and PhD.

Fulbright Scholar 2009

implementation, the issues and links between scientific evidence and policy. I have been fortunate to work for the team that aimed to strengthen a country's health system in many of the U.S. government supported countries. This has become one of my greatest achievements of my life.

What I liked MOST about the U.S. was a human kindness to support others without expecting anything in return and could flame someone's heart with great belief to do something better for someone.

Honest people and competent professionals were the things I appreciated the most during my fellowship in U.S. I met wonderful people who touched my heart with the warmth of their heart and who guided me to gain the knowledge and experience that I wanted to learn the most. These people were not only my instructors, but they were also wonderful friends with good hearts.

I always feel myself lucky for having a chance to meet many wonderful people in the world like my professor John Steward at the Georgia State University, and my team leader Patricia Riley at the CDC. These people helped me understand that with commitments made by the people themselves, not politically driven, with a determination to help others, not only yourself, and with honesty, there is nothing that cannot be achieved. □

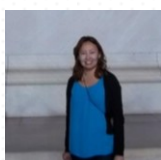


Erdenekhuu With colleagues from USAID, CDC and NIH during the Medical Education Partnership Initiative (MEPI) workshop in South Africa

NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK

INTRODUCING NEW ALUMNI

It is our pleasure to add this new section to our newsletter where we will introduce the new people who have joined our alumni community. Please join us in welcoming these new alumni to our alumni family!



Byambakhand Luguusharav

Alumna of IVLP program, Researcher at the Institute for Strategic Studies.

"As a researcher engaged in U.S. foreign policy, this program was extremely valuable for me to understand the U.S. political life and allowed me to witness in person the 2012 U.S. presidential election." Byambakhand enjoys music and reading.



Erdenekhuu Nansalma

Fulbright 2010-2012, MPH, Georgia State Uni. Head of Partnership for Global Health NGO and Lecturer at the Health Sciences Uni. erdenekhuu@fulbrightmail.org

"Fulbright provided me an immense opportunity for professional and personal growth and allowed me to benefit from remarkable experiences in the field of global health and health systems." Erdenekhuu enjoys photography and trying out new recipes. He also likes debating and enjoys playing team sports.



Oyuntsetseg Tsog

Humphrey 2011-2012. Tulane University. oyuna_tsog@yahoo.com

"Humphrey Fellowship Program is very unique; it gives us an opportunity to improve both our academic knowledge and professional skills." Oyunaa enjoys reading, swimming, running, and listening to music. Her professional interests include monitoring and evaluation, quality management of health systems, and medical imaging science.



Sharavtseren Tserenjigmed

Fulbright 2009-2011, MA in Arts Piano, Roosevelt University, Chicago. Piano instructor at Music and Dance College. sharavtsereng@hotmail.com

"Fulbright gave me an opportunity to learn the style and method of American piano studies, which represents the best of all piano teaching schools in the world." Sharav enjoys Reading new books about piano and contemporary music research and spending time with his two sons: Rentsen and Benjamin.



Naranbulag Khukhuu

Fulbright 2011-12, LL.M in International Business and Trade Law, John Marshall Law School. naranbulag9@yahoo.com

"My Fulbright experience broadened my global perspective and expanded my intellectual and practical boundaries in many ways." Naranbulag is interested in business & commercial law, international affairs, and her hobbies include dancing, swimming, basketball, table tennis, music, poetry etc.



Nomintuya Baasankhuu

Fulbright 2010-2012, MA in Arts Administration, Columbia University. Arts Program Director at Arts Council of Mongolia.

"The Fulbright path was challenging and yet the most rewarding life time experience I ever had." Nomi is passionate about learning the food culture of different countries. Interested in interior design and performing arts, and enjoys rock climbing, swimming and dancing.



Badruun Gardi

IVLP alumnus, Executive Director of Zorig Foundation. badruun@zorigfoundation.org

"I participated in the IVLP in December of 2012. The theme of the program was on civil society and was a part of the strategic dialogue with civil society's initiative started by Secretary Clinton. The best part of the program was that it brought together civil society activists from 24 different countries around the world!" He is interested in community development, education policy, policy analysis, and performing arts.



Zuljargal Sandui

IVLP alumnus. Head of Property Rights and Registrations Division of the General Authority of State Registration, zuljargals@yahoo.com

"IVLP was the most informative and inspiring experience I've ever had." Zuljargal enjoys fishing and photography ☐

AMERICAN CULTURAL AND INFORMATION CENTER

The U.S. Embassy in Ulaanbaatar supports a small American style public library known as the American Cultural and Information Center at the Ulaanbaatar City Public Library. The Center's main goal is improvement of mutual understanding between the people of the United States and Mongolia. The Center contains reference works, periodicals, and a circulating book collection.

Free on-line reference searching and e-mail access enhance the ability of the Center to provide the most up-to-date information to their patrons. Events at the center for wide audiences give first-hand exposure to American culture, as well as provide opportunities to meet native English speakers and American speakers on various topics. American Centers are often used by USG alumni as venues for their meetings and events.

http://mongolia.usembassy.gov/american_cultural_information_center3.html

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/American-Corner-Ulaanbaatar/162640348874>

"Let's Talk About America" lecture series

Every Thursday at 4pm the center holds an English lecture for the public on a variety of topics. The speakers usually include U.S. Embassy officers or American citizens who are working in Mongolia. These lectures grant the participants an opportunity to deepen their understanding about the history, culture, art and nature of America and improve their language skills.

(Please note that this program runs from September until the end of June with a break in January.)

U.S. EMBASSY IN ULAANBAATAR

For information regarding general activities and news of the U.S. Embassy including: Key Embassy Officers, Embassy reports and speeches, Programs and Grants, Educational and Scholarship Opportunities, Alumni News and much more please visit: <http://mongolia.usembassy.gov>

To learn about Embassy's Alumni News and Activities please visit: <http://mongolia.usembassy.gov/masa.html>

U.S. Embassy also invites you to connect with us via Social Media sites.

 <http://www.twitter.com/USembMongolia>

 <http://www.facebook.com/USAinMongolia>

EDUCATION USA

Educational Advising and Resource Center (EARC) is a member of the global Education USA network of more than 450 advising centers supported by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State.

The EARC actively works in collaboration with the US Embassy in Mongolia. Moreover, the center disseminates accurate, comprehensive, current, and unbiased information about the US education system and scholarship opportunities to students and individuals who want to study in the United States.

Email: info@earcmn.org

Website: <http://www.earcmn.org>

Location: Sukhbaatar district, Student's street,
Building MKM-24, 1st floor,
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Working Hours: Mon-Friday 09:00-18:00